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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 59
By Rochelle

A RESOLUTION to urge the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education to select Tennessee as a participant in a multi-state long-term strategic planning team on state higher education policy.

WHEREAS, the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education (NCPPE) is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization unaffiliated with any government agency, political party, or college or university. NCPPE was established in 1998 with a founding grant from Pew Charitable Trusts to conduct studies and issue reports to stimulate public policies that will improve the effectiveness and accessibility of higher education; and

WHEREAS, in the fall of 2000, NCPPE issued a report, *Measuring Up 2000*, that is, in effect, a national report card on higher education. Recognizing that the need to develop the talents of our citizens has accelerated faster than the expansion of college opportunity and enrollment, that education and training beyond high school are now prerequisites for employment which can support a middle-class lifestyle, that the benefits of higher education are unevenly and often unfairly distributed and such distribution is influenced by wealth, income and

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ethnicity, NCPPHE determined to compare the performance of each state in key areas related to education and training through the baccalaureate degree; and

WHEREAS, in its report, *Measuring Up 2000*, NCPPHE examined each state's higher education in six key areas: preparation, participation, affordability, completion, benefits and learning. In the area of preparation, Tennessee scored a C- compared to other states; in participation, a D-; in affordability, a C; in completion, a C; in benefits, a D+; and in learning, like all other states, an incomplete. When viewed in the light of the fact that, between 1977 and 1997, the average income of high school students decreased by 4% in real dollars, while the real advantage for baccalaureate degree holders rose by 28%; Tennessee's position in comparison to the national average is alarming; and

WHEREAS, NCPPHE now has a new grant program entitled *Making the Grade: A Partnership to Stimulate State Higher Education Dialogue and Change Using a National Report Card*. The project will facilitate a partnership with the National Governors Association and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities to promote national dialogue on the condition of state higher education. A multi-state long term strategic planning team composed of legislators, governors, state higher education executive officers and university officials will be selected to conduct such long-term strategic planning using as its basis, NCPPHE's National report card, *Measuring Up 2000*; and

WHEREAS, the participating states will be chosen on a competitive basis, and Tennessee's participation would be invaluable not only to the project but to this state, given Tennessee's poor competitive standing in the key areas of preparation, participation, affordability, completion, benefits and learning; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we strongly urge the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education to select Tennessee as one of the participating states in its project, *Making the*

Grade: A Partnership to Stimulate State Higher Education Dialogue and Change Using a National Report Card.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be sent to the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, at its offices at 152 North Third Street, San Jose, California 95112, and at 1001 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 310, Washington, D.C. 20036.